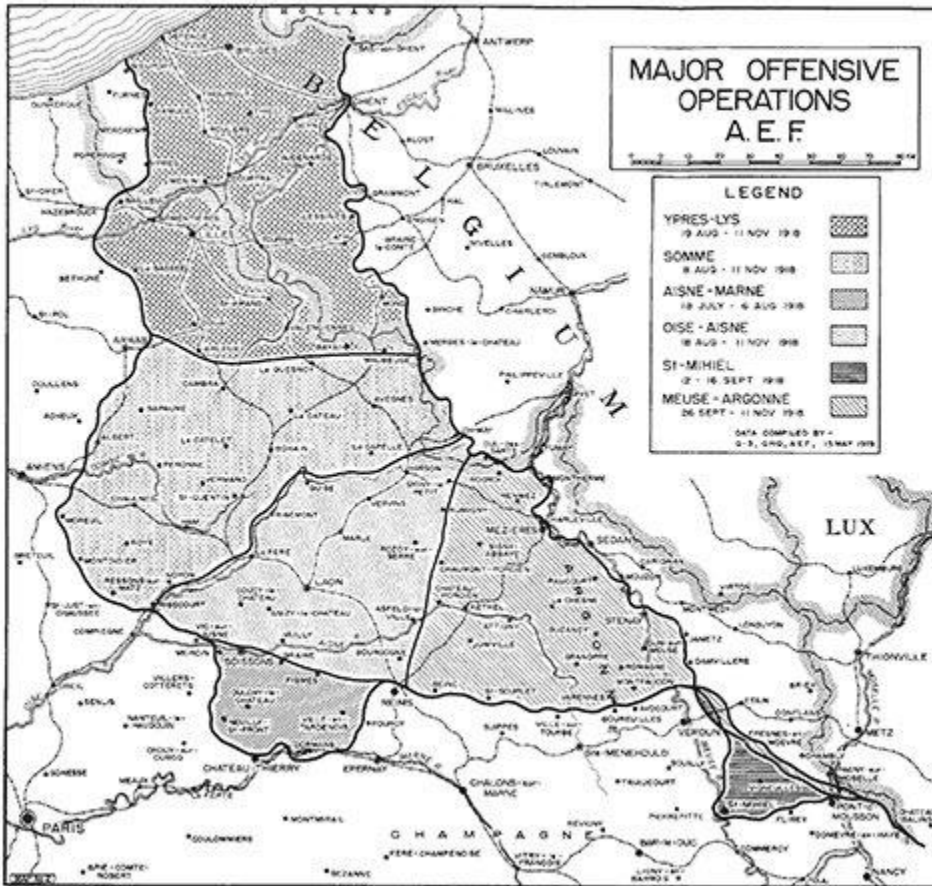


March 17, 2020

The Value of Military History

(Pennsylvania Military Museum, T. Gum, Site Admin.)



Military history is often times viewed as only the study of military tactics, logistics, weaponry, etc. For others it is the strategic study of, “*Ends, Ways, and Means.*” However, placing military history into silos does the field a disservice, and for the people of America and the World, a greater disservice when it comes to the understanding the impact of waging war... socially, culturally, and politically to name a few.

The deployment of military forces to carry out carry out the will of a State, also marks the break down of diplomacy. Arguably, there is a fine line between war and diplomacy - all can/will

agree that once man & armaments go down-range it is abundantly clear that “talks” have ceased.

What is diplomacy without enforcement, a knowing & present possibility of loss... the loss of peace, the loss of life and lifestyle as we know it? One must know that the breakdown of diplomacy will result in penalty, or an escalation of force, for the initial diplomatic efforts to carry weight and value.

The study of Military History is also a broader study of people and societies. This includes their morals, their priorities, and their willingness to commit themselves to an ideal that they are willing to at times, die for. By studying Military History, diplomatic efforts are given more value due to the sincere understanding of the outcomes of failed said effort(s) - perhaps known best not by the academic, but more so by the man or woman sent forth on behalf of the State who will shed their sweat and blood, and bury their brothers in arms to achieve the goals of commanders, and of their political leaders.



What is the value of military history in academia and for the public? The Society of Military History answers such question through their published piece on the subject, linked below.